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A.—The Government are not in possession of the full details asked for.

The civil budget estimate for the year 1920-21 gives the number of village officers and menials on duty on 1st April 1920, i.e., before the reduction of establishment was ordered. The statement on page 165 of the Retrenchment Committee's report, which has been placed on the table of the House, gives the reductions ordered by the Board up to 20th September 1923.

A statement giving the above details is appended.*

Village grouping in the Malabar district.

419 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the following particulars:—

(a) the number of amsams in the Malabar district, both before and after their recent grouping;

(b) the number of adhikaries, menons and kolkarans whose services were dispensed with in consequence of the grouping;

(c) the number of villages, both before and after their recent grouping, in all the other districts of the Presidency taken together; and

(d) the total number of village officers and menials in the districts mentioned in question (c) above whose services were dispensed with in consequence of regrouping?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 418.

Village grouping in the Kurnool district.

420 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to state whether the clubbing of villages has been completed in the Kurnool district; if so, to inform the House how many village reddis, karnams and servants were thrown out of employment; and

(ii) to lay on the table figures showing the retrenchment in expenditure caused thereby?

A.—The Government are not in possession of the details asked for.

Regrouping of villages in Malabar.

421 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the regrouping of villages in all the taluks in Malabar; if so, to furnish in a tabular form a statement showing the number of villages in each taluk both before and after the regrouping, the number of village headmen and karnams and other servants whose service will be dispensed with and the savings that may be effected thereby;

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(b) whether effect has already been given to the proposal; if so, in what taluks;

(c) whether for the selection and discharge of village servants consequent on such regrouping Government have issued any definite instructions or rules for the guidance of the district authorities; if so, what they are; and

(d) whether the proposals of the district authorities for such regrouping and the selection of village servants are submitted for final approval to the Board of Revenue?

A.—(a) & (b) The revision of village establishments has been undertaken throughout the Presidency under the orders of Government. The Government are not in possession of the details asked for.

(c) No instructions were issued in addition to the rules already in the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue.

(d) Proposals for regrouping require the approval of the Board of Revenue. The selection of village servants rests with the Revenue Divisional Officer.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for details?"

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE:—"Yes."

Famine.

Famine conditions in the Kurnool district.

422 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been a complete failure of the north-east monsoon in the Kurnool district;

(b) whether famine conditions prevail in (1) the black cotton soil villages and some red soil villages of the Pattikonda taluk, (2) the Owk division of the Koilkuntla taluk and (3) in a few villages of the Kurnool and Dhone taluks;

(c) whether some villages which were affected last year have been affected this year also;

(d) if so, the names of such villages; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to alleviate distress in the affected villages?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (d) From the Collector's report received, the Government learn that rainfall has been very short and outturn poor in parts of Maddikera village.

(c) The economic history of this village for four years past is reported to be unfavourable.

(e) The suspension of kists is under consideration.

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—"With reference to the answers given to clauses (b) and (d) of my question, will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the Government have received any petitions from the ryots of villages referred to in clause (b)?"

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE:—"The information will be supplied."